NEWS RELEASE

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Beaverton Traffic Team Enforcing
New Cell Phone Restrictions

As of January 1, 2012 HB 3186 went into effect modifying Oregon's law against using handheld communication devices while driving. This includes when stopped at a signal or stop sign.

The goal is to make our roads safer for everyone. The new law limits the situations where drivers can use a handheld communications device for talking to these two times:

> ➢ You may use your phone without a hands-free accessory to summon medical or other emergency help **IF** no other person in the vehicle is capable of summoning help.

> ➢ If you are operating an ambulance or emergency vehicle, roadside assistance or tow vehicle, or if you are operating a utility vehicle while servicing a utility, you may use your cell phone without a hands-free accessory.

Those in violation face a minimum fine of $110 (Class D violation).

Some new key elements are that no driver, no matter their age, is allowed to text while driving. Nor can a driver use a handheld mobile communication device while driving EXCEPT in these few cases:

1. Drivers of roadside assistance or tow vehicles.
2. Drivers of utility vehicles for the purpose of servicing a utility.
3. Drivers using a mobile communications device for the purpose of farming or agricultural operations.
4. Emergency and First Responders.

Also, drivers under age 18 are prohibited from using all mobile communication devices whether hands-free or not. (Emergencies are an exception). Furthermore, drivers age 18 and over can only use a mobile communications device while driving if they are using a hands-free accessory (exceptions listed above).

This means law enforcement personnel can stop a driver solely for using a mobile communications device without using a hands-free accessory.

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